

## Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SS-20 SPC-03 NSC-07 L-03 AID-20

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R 111515Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6918

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ECON, CG, US

SUBJ: MOBUTU REAFFIRMS POLICIES FAVORING AMERICAN INVESTMENT

1. DURING CALL ON PRESIDENT MOBUTU OVER WEEKEND I TOLD HIM THAT MY RECENT STAY IN THE US HAD COINCIDED WITH THE ANNOUNCEMENT AND EARLY IMPLEMENTATION PHASE OF HIS GOVERNMENTS ZAIRIANIZATION PROGRAM. AS A RESULT, I HAD HAD A LARGE NUMBER OF INQUIRIES FROM AMERICAN BANKERS AND BUSINESSMEN WHO WERE CONCERNED THAT THESE MEASURES MIGHT AFFECT THE INTERESTS IN ZAIRE OF THE AMERICAN PRIVATE SECTOR.

2. I TOLD MOBUTU THAT, BASED UPON MY KNOWLEDGE OF HIS POLICIES AND MY ANALYSIS OF THE MEASURES THAT HAD BEEN TAKEN, I HAD TOLD MY INQUIRORS THAT THE GOZ WAS ACTING ESSENTIALLY TO CLEAN UP THE REMAINING HOLDOVERS OF THE COLONIAL PERIOD IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND AT THE SAME TIME MOVING TO ZAIRIANIZE SMALL COMMERCE AND PLANTATIONS. I HAD ADDED THAT I WAS CONFIDENT THERE WAS NO INTENTION TO AFFECT ADVERSELY THE INTERESTS OF THE AMERICAN PRIVATE SECTOR IN ZAIRE.

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3. MOBUTU REPLIED THAT I HAD DESCRIBED VERY ACCURATELY HIS POLICIES AND INTENTIONS. HE ASKED ME CATEGORICALLY TO ASSURE INTERESTED AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN OF THIS FACT. IT WAS NOW CLEAR THAT THE DISTRIBUTION SECTOR SHOULD BE RESERVED TO ZAIRIAN NATIONALS BUT ZAIRE CONTINUED AND WOULD CONTINUE FOR A LONG TIME TO REQUIRE INVESTMENT IN THE OTHER SECTORS AND AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN WOULD CONTINUE TO BE WELCOMED WARMLY BY HIS GOVERNMENT. HE ADDED THAT HE ALSO STILL SOUGHT A WIDER DIVERSIFICATION OF HIS COUNTRY'S IMPORT SOURCES AND WOULD CONTINUE TO ENCOURAGE THE IMPORT OF AMERICAN GOODS AND SERVICES. HE CONCLUDED THAT HE DID NOT OPPOSE NEW BELGIAN INVESTMENT OR CONTINUED TRADE WITH BELGIUM BUT WISHED TO SHAKE OFF THE SPECIAL POSITION THE BELGIAN PRIVATE SECTOR HAD OBTAINED DUE SOLELY TO THE COLONIAL PAST.

4. I THEN POINTED OUT THAT IT WOULD APPEAR DESIRABLE TO SEEK MEANS OF CONVEYING THIS REAFFIRMATION OF HIS POLICY TOWARDS AMERICAN INVESTMENT AND TRADE TO A WIDER AUDIENCE IN THE US.

5. I REMINDED THE PRESIDENT THAT HE HAD MET WITH A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN AT THE LUNCH HASTED BY CHAIRMAN WRISTON OF THE FIRST NATIONAL CITY BANK OF NEW YORK LAST OCTOBER AND HAD THEN ARTICULATED HIS POLICIES. HOWEVER, THE ZAIRIANIZATION PROGRAM HAD OCCURRED AFTER THIS SPEECH. I SUGGESTED THAT PERHAPS HE MIGHT WISH TO HAVE AN APPROPRIATE OFFICIAL OF HIS GOVERNMENT WRITE WRISTON. HE SAID HE DID NOT THINK IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR A GOVERNMENT TO EXPLAIN ITS POLICIES TO A PRIVATE BUSINESSMAN BUT RECALLED THAT, DURING THE LUNCH, HE HAD INVITED WRISTON AND ANY OF HIS GUESTS WHO WERE INTERESTED TO VISIT ZAIRE. HE ASKED ME TO REAFFIRM THIS INVITATION AND SAID THAT SUCH DISTINGUISHED VISITORS WOULD BE HIS GUESTS AND THAT HE WOULD RESTATE HIS POLICIES WHILE MEETING WITH THEM. THEY WOULD HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO TALK WITH AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN ALREADY HERE AND TO VISIT THE COUNTRY AND SEE WHAT IS GOING ON FOR THEMSELVES. I REPLIED THAT I WOULD CONVEY THIS INVITATION AND ADDED THAT PRESIDENT

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REYNOLDS OF REYNOLDS ALUMINUM CO WAS VISITING ZAIRE MARCH 20 TO 26 AND THIS WOULD AFFORD AN OPPORTUNITY FOR HIM TO TALK TO ONE OF OUR LEADING BUSINESSMEN, AS HE HAD ALREADY AGREED TO RECEIVE MR REYNOLDS.

6. RECOMMEND THAT SUBSTANCE OF FOREGOING BE CONVEYED TO WRISTON.  
VANCE

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